

most importantly, the students themselves. He served as the District's representative in staff contract negotiations, oversaw budget decisions, coordinated the recruitment, selection and assignment of teachers, principals and other personnel and put his imprint on every aspect of life and learning in the Jefferson Elementary School District.

As is the case in school districts across our country, Superintendent Rizzo was asked to do the impossible—educate a diverse student population in an environment of dwindling financial resources, all the while staying focused on preparing them to achieve to their utmost ability in an increasingly competitive world.

To do this, Matteo relied heavily on the skills he gained as an Assistant Superintendent, Principal, Vice-Principal and teacher—all within the Jefferson Elementary School District. His unsurpassed institutional knowledge and commitment to bettering the lives of young people will be sorely missed and not easily replaced. Fortunately, he leaves his successor with a legacy of excellence and community involvement that can be built upon in future years.

Mr. Speaker, Matteo Rizzo is a living example of the benefits of public education and the fruits of hard work. A product of local schools, he is a graduate of San Francisco State University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, his California Teaching Credential and two Masters of Arts—one in Education and another in Educational Administration. He has been honored at every step of his career, including earning a "California Distinguished School" award for Fernando Rivera Middle School in 2001, while serving as the school's principal.

Mr. Speaker, Superintendent Rizzo has certainly earned his retirement. On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I wish to thank him for his exceptional service to our nation and wish him only the best as he now has time to travel with his amazing wife, Clydie, play a lot more golf, do a little more duck hunting and, as rumor has it, learn to play the guitar.

Matteo Rizzo, simply put, is a good man who spent his entire professional career doing good for his community. There's no need to tell that to the thousands of children he educated, or his son, Matthew, and daughter-in-law, Jill, but the rest of America can benefit from knowing that extremely capable and committed professionals like Matteo Rizzo show up at school districts across this country every day with no other goal than to move our country forward, one student at a time.

It is for these reasons and more that I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Superintendent Matteo Rizzo for his service.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER TEXAS GOVERNOR BILL CLEMENTS

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 2, 2011*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to a true Texas trailblazer, Governor William "Bill" Clements.

After the loss of his family farm during the Great Depression, a young Bill Clements went

to work as an oil-field roughneck, no doubt shaping him into the legendary man and governor Texas would come to know and love. Working his way from roughneck to CEO, the invaluable lessons he learned along the way led him to the White House as deputy secretary of defense for Presidents Nixon and Ford.

In 1978, he came home to a Texas politically dominated by the Democrat party to run for governor and, in an upset victory, he became the first Republican elected since Reconstruction. Bringing this experience to the office, Governor Clements changed business as usual in the state by demanding sound budgeting and management policies, taking a tough stance on crime and working toward education improvements. After losing his first re-election bid in 1982, Clements returned to the Governor's Mansion four years later for his second and final term. Governor Clements' hard work and dedication built a firm foundation for Texas's future, and is the reason Texas has remained the successful economic model it is today.

After retiring from public life, Governor Clements made his home in Dallas where he spent his days supporting the Texas treasures he loved so much. He was an avid supporter of the Boy Scouts and contributed generously to the organization. Perhaps one of his most significant contributions was the land he and others worked hard to obtain for the Scouts in Henderson County—known today as "The Clements Scout Ranch." As an Eagle Scout and Representative of Henderson County, I am especially thankful for Governor Clements' dedication to Scouting. I know that, because of his time and effort, generations of Scouts in and around Henderson County will enjoy many summers filled with camping, fishing, hiking and horseback riding.

We will always remember his infectious love for Texas. Bill Clements truly embodied the Lone Star spirit. While he will be missed, his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all Texans.

#### PLUMMERS LOCAL UNION 210 ANNUAL APPRENTICE GRADUATION BANQUET

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 2, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, June 3, 2011, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will honor the graduating class of 2011 at the Annual Apprentice Graduation Banquet, which will be held at Tiebel's Restaurant in Schererville, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will recognize and honor the 2011 Apprentice Graduates. The individuals who have completed their apprentice training in 2011 are: Bruce Bigbie, Christopher Dodrill, Jacob Fredericks, Derek Gatlin, Robert Gorka, Travis Hamilton, Mario Hodalj, Joseph Hull, Brian Juris, Robert Piekarczyk, William Schuitema, Eric J. Smith, Jacob Wellsand, and Daniel Wydro, Jr.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its

tradesmen. These graduates are outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. SYLVAN SIEGAL

#### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 2, 2011*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Sylvan Siegal, a San Antonio native who bravely fought in the front lines of World War II. Last month, I had the honor of presenting the Bronze Star Medal to Mr. Siegal's brother—64 years after Sylvan Siegal should have received it for his combat service as an Army infantryman in World War II.

During World War II, Sylvan Siegal served in Rifle Co. "B" of the 406th Regiment of the 102nd Infantry "Ozark" Division which helped obliterate the Nazi army in central Germany.

After Sylvan died this past September, his brother, Ben Siegal, found his brother's Army documents among his belongings. It showed Mr. Siegal had earned the Combat Infantry Badge and was awarded the EAME Campaign Ribbon with 2 Bronze Stars, the Victory Ribbon, 2 Overseas Service Bars, Army Occupation Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Siegal passed away this past September, at the age 84. He is buried next to his beloved parents, Louis and Bluma Kagan Siegal.

Because Mr. Sylvan Siegal was proud of both his Jewish heritage and his service to our country, Ben Siegal chose his synagogue, Rodfei Sholom, for the medal presentation where Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg delivered the following remarks:

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the United States declared war on Japan and Germany, American Jewish men and women responded to their country's call for the armed forces.

During the course of World War II, 550,000 men and women of Jewish faith served in every branch of the armed forces of the United States.

Twenty-two Jews attained senior rank in the Armed Forces—18 were generals, 6 were major generals, 12 were brigadier generals, 1 was vice admiral, 2 were rear admirals, and 1 was a commodore.

The total number of Jewish war casualties was 38,338; 11,000 Jews were killed, 7,000 in combat.

Approximately 26,000 Jewish men and women in uniform received citations for valor and merit. The number of awards totaled 49,315, including 3 Congressional Medals of Honor, 66 Distinguished Service Crosses, 28 Nag Crosses, 41 Distinguished Service Medals, 244 Legions of Merit, 1,434 Silver Stars, 2,047 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 191 Soldier's Medals, 28 Navy and Marine Corps Medals, 4,641 Bronze Star Medals, 13,212 Air Medals, and 14,550 Purple Hearts.